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Webster given Medal of Freedom

President Bush gave a Medal of Freedom to CIA Director William Webster yesterday, saluting him for "a lifetime of accomplishment." The award came just two days after Mr. Webster agreed to stay on the job at least a month longer than planned.

White House spokesman Roman Popadiuk said the president wanted to commend Mr. Webster for "the magnificent work he did during Desert Storm and Desert Shield" as well as his eight years as a federal judge, his nine years as director of the FBI and his four years as director of central intelligence.

Mr. Webster agreed on Tuesday to postpone his scheduled July 31 departure from the agency because of the delay in confirmation hearings for Robert M. Gates, Mr. Bush's nominee for the post.

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